

## **JH/SH High Cell Phone Policy**

Board Approved on 12/16/24 & Implementation Date on 1/2/25

We value instructional time at Louisa-Muscatine. Numerous studies have shown that cell phone availability and usage deter student learning and school culture ([Banning Smartphones at School](#)) and may contribute to student anxiety (<https://jonathanhaidt.com/anxious-generation/>). Countries, states, and schools are implementing no-cell phone policies. Louisa-Muscatine's top priority is the education of the students. With that goal in mind, during the school hours of 8:10 a.m. and 3:18 p.m. (2:18 on Fridays), all phones and smart devices must be put in the student-issued locker with ringers turned off. A student may have a phone with them due to an individual school plan approved by the administration. Still, it is only to be used within the plan's parameters. It would be preferred that students leave their phones/smart devices in their car or at home. If that is not possible, the phones must remain in the student's locker. Students will have access to their phones during the passing times at their lockers if it is not disruptive or causes tardiness.

There is to be NO cell phone usage in bathrooms or locker rooms at any time.

Anyone needing to contact a Louisa-Muscatine student is asked to call the main office, and messages will be delivered as time permits.

The only exception to this rule is if a class requires phone use, the office must be notified, and the teacher must have approval. If needed for something particular in that classroom, they can be used and placed in a container for the remainder of the class and then returned to the student's locker before their next class.

If a student's phone or smart device should happen to be seen, heard, or used outside of personal locker proximity during the school day without permission, the student will be directed to the office, and the cell phone will be confiscated without student complaint or refusal. A student's refusal to relinquish their cell phone/smart device will be considered insubordination.

Headphones and air pods can only be used at the teacher's discretion in the classroom.

The consequences for failing to comply with the cell phone policy will be as follows:

1st Offense- Warning, and the cell phone remains in the office for the day and will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

2nd Offense- The student will receive a lunch detention to be served in the office. The confiscated cell phone will be turned in to the office each day and returned to the student at the

end of each day for three total school days. The parent/guardian will be contacted by email that the student had their second offense.

3rd Offense- The student will receive an after-school detention to be served in the office. The confiscated phone will be turned in to the office each day and returned to the student for three school days at the end of each day. The parent/guardian will be contacted by email that the student had their third offense.

4th Offense- The student will receive a one-day in-school suspension. The confiscated cell phone will be turned in to the office each day and returned to the student at the end of each day for 3 days. The parent/guardian will be contacted by email that the student had their fourth offense.

Subsequent Offenses- Consequences will be given at the discretion of the administration, which may include in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or a phone banning. A parent meeting will be required at the time of the 5th violation.

If the violation includes inappropriate photos, videos, or messages on the cell phone or smart device, the infraction will be reported to local law enforcement immediately. This infraction may result in a phone banning.

The senior room is an extension of the open campus, and cell phone usage is permitted. This privilege can be removed at any time.